

What is claimed is:

- 1        1. A method of organizing a workflow management system, said method  
2           comprising:
  - 3           identifying core functions;
  - 4           producing information for each core function;
  - 5           establishing core function units;
  - 6           integrating said information into a coherent uniform presentation for use by said  
7           core function units; and  
8           instituting communications among said core function units.
- 1        2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said identifying core functions includes  
2           identifying external core functions selected from the group consisting of life cycle  
3           management, acquisition, research and development, test and evaluation, in-service  
4           engineering, integrated logistic support, program management and platform management.
- 1        3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said identified core functions are  
2           external core functions including life cycle management, acquisition, research and  
3           development, test and evaluation, in-service engineering, integrated logistic support,  
4           program management and platform management.

1           4. A method according to claim 1, wherein said identifying core functions includes  
2           identifying internal core functions selected from the group consisting of facility planning,  
3           budget strategy and contracting requirements.

1           5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said identifying core functions includes  
2           identifying internal core functions selected from the group consisting of facilities, budget  
3           and contracts.

1           6. A method according to claim 1, wherein said identified core functions are  
2           external core functions including facilities, budget and contracts.

1           7. A method according to claim 1, wherein said identifying core functions includes  
2           dividing said core functions into external core functions and internal core functions.

1           8. A method according to claim 7, wherein said identified external core functions  
2           are selected from the group consisting of life cycle management, acquisition, research and  
3           development, test and evaluation, in-service engineering, integrated logistic support,  
4           program management and platform management.

1           9. A method according to claim 7, wherein said identified internal core functions  
2           are selected from the group consisting of facilities, budget and contracts.

1           10. A method according to claim 1, wherein said producing information for each  
2           core function includes producing narrative description, procedural description and flow  
3           diagrammatic description for each core function.

1           11. A method according to claim 1, wherein said integrating said information  
2           includes issuing a manual, wherein said manual includes narrative description, procedural  
3           description and flow diagrammatic description for each core function.

1           12. A method according to claim 1, wherein said establishing core function units  
2           includes establishing external core function units selected from the group consisting of life  
3           cycle management, acquisition, research and development, test and evaluation, in-service  
4           engineering, integrated logistic support, program management and platform management.

1           13. A method according to claim 1, wherein said establishing core function units  
2           includes establishing internal core functions selected from the group consisting of facilities,  
3           budget and contracts.

1           14. A method according to claim 1, wherein said establishing core function units  
2           includes:

3           establishing external core function units selected from the group consisting of life  
4           cycle management, acquisition, research and development, test and evaluation, in-service

5 engineering, integrated logistic support, program management and platform management;

6 and

7 establishing internal core functions selected from the group consisting of facilities,  
8 budget and contracts.

1 15. A method according to claim 1, wherein said establishing core function units  
2 includes:

3 establishing external core function units including life cycle management,  
4 acquisition, research and development, test and evaluation, in-service engineering,  
5 integrated logistic support, program management and platform management; and  
6 establishing internal core functions including facilities, budget and contracts.

7 16. A method according to claim 1, wherein said instituting communications  
8 includes instituting at least one type of communications selected from the group consisting  
of telephone, telefax, correspondence and electronic mail.

1 17. A method according to claim 1, further comprising distributing said coherent  
2 presentation among said core function units.

1 18. A method according to claim 1, wherein said producing information for each  
2 core function includes establishing teams, each said team being charged with producing  
3 information for a different core function.

1           19. A method for defining and executing the flow of management operations, said  
2           method comprising:

3           establishing plural units, each said unit involving a different core function;  
4           formulating a manual which prescribes said flow both intrarelationaly within each  
5           said unit and interrelationally between said units; and  
6           enabling communication in and among said units in furtherance of said flow.

1           20. A method for defining and executing the flow as recited in claim 19, further  
2           comprising dissemination said manual to said units.

1           21. A method for defining and executing the flow as recited in claim 19, wherein  
2           said establishing plural units includes establishing units involving external core functions,  
3           said external core function units including life cycle management unit, acquisition unit,  
4           research and development unit, test and evaluation unit, in-service engineering unit,  
5           integrated logistic support unit, program management unit and platform management unit.

1           22. A method for defining and executing the flow as recited in claim 19, wherein  
2           said establishing plural units includes establishing units involving internal core functions,  
3           said internal core function units including facilities unit, budget unit and contracts unit.

1           23. A method for defining and executing the flow as recited in claim 19, wherein  
2           said establishing plural units includes:

3                 establishing units involving external core functions, said external core function units  
4                 including life cycle management unit, acquisition unit, research and development unit, test  
5                 and evaluation unit, in-service engineering unit, integrated logistic support unit, program  
6                 management unit and platform management unit; and

7                 establishing units involving internal core functions, said internal core function units  
8                 including facilities unit, budget unit and contracts unit.

1           24. A method for defining and executing the flow as recited in claim 19, wherein  
2           said enabling communication includes instituting at least two communication means  
3           selected from the group consisting of telephone, telefax, correspondence and e-mail.

1           25. A method for defining and executing the flow as recited in claim 19, further  
2           comprising formulating a policy for continually improving said flow, said formulating a  
3           policy including prescribing the periodic updating of said manual.

1           26. A method for defining and executing the flow as recited in claim 25, wherein  
2           said periodic updating of said manual includes changing at least one channel of said said  
3           flow between at least two said units.

1           27. A method for defining and executing the flow as recited in claim 25, wherein  
2         said formulating a policy includes adding at least one channel of said said flow between  
3         at least two said units.

1           28. A method for defining and executing the flow as recited in claim 25, wherein  
2         said formulating a policy includes removing at least one channel of said said flow between  
3         at least two said units.

1           29. A system for performing workflow management, said system comprising:  
2              a plurality of core functional units;  
3              a manual for utilization by said core functional units, said manual defining said  
4         workflow within and between said core functional units; and  
5              means for communication within and between said core functional units.

1           30. A system for performing workflow management as recited in claim 29, wherein  
2         said core functional units comprise external core functional units including a life cycle  
3         management unit, an acquisition unit, a research and development unit, a test and  
4         evaluation unit, an in-service engineering unit, an integrated logistic support unit, a program  
5         management unit and a platform management unit.

1           31. A system for performing workflow management as recited in claim 29, wherein

2 said core functional units comprise internal core functional units including a facilities unit,  
3 a budget unit and a contracts unit.

1                 32. A system for performing workflow management as recited in claim 29, wherein  
2 said core functional units comprise:

3                 external core functional units including a life cycle management unit, an acquisition  
4 unit, a research and development unit, a test and evaluation unit, an in-service engineering  
5 unit, an integrated logistic support unit, a program management unit and a platform  
6 management unit; and

7                 internal core functional units including a facilities unit, a budget unit and a contracts  
8 unit.

1                 33. A system for performing workflow management as recited in claim 29, wherein  
2 said means for communication include telephone, facsimile transmission, correspondence  
3 and electronic mail.